

Approved Minutes

A regular meeting of the Albemarle County Broadband Authority was held on April 26, 2023. The meeting was held in room 241 of the Albemarle County Office Building located at 401 McIntire Road.

PRESENT: Mr. Bucky Walsh, Mr. Waldo Jaquith, Ms. Donna Price, Mr. Jim Andrews, Mr. Trevor Henry

ABSENT: Mr. Bill Fritz

Also Present: Mr. Richard DeLoria (Senior Assistant County Attorney), Mike Culp (Director of Broadband Accessibility and Affordability Office) and Jason Inofuentes (Program Manager, Broadband Accessibility and Affordability Office).

Agenda Item No. 1. Establish Quorum and Call to Order.

Mr. Walsh established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 1a Approve temporary assignment for recording of meeting minutes.

Mr. Walsh **moved** to assign Mr. Inofuentes as temporary secretary.

The motion was **approved** unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 2 Approval of Agenda

Mr. Walsh **moved** to approve the agenda.

The motion was **approved** unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 3 Brief Announcements by Authority Members

There were no announcements.

Agenda Item No. 4 Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

There was one member of the public present for the meeting.

There were two virtual attendees.

Agenda Item No. 5 Consent Agenda

Ms. Price **moved** to approve the agenda.

Mr. Henry **seconded** the motion.

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The motion was **approved** unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 6 Approval of March 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Action on the March 21, 2023 minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

Agenda Item No.7 Old Business

Agenda Item No. 7a VATI 2021 Update

Mr. Culp shared a PowerPoint presentation. (Attached to these minutes)

Mr. Culp stated that the closeout reports are not completed. DHCD has granted an extension until June 30, 2023.

Mr. Walsh stated that the consumer believes they are working with Brightspeed. However, Brightspeed is working with contractors.

Mr. Culp stated that Brightspeed has not provided updated take rate information which makes it difficult to determine the scope of the problem.

Mr. Inofuentes stated that reports about failure of technicians to keep appointments has increased lately.

Mr. Jaquith noted that he has observed multiple pedestals that are not wired. The pedestals are in the field and appear to be infrastructure, but they are not actually connected. Mr. Jaquith stated that they are burying fiber 13 inches deep instead of 36 inches. The fiber was not in conduit. Mr. Jaquith stated that he is concerned that inferior infrastructure is being installed and may become a problem in the future.

Mr. Walsh asked if there was information to determine the size and area of the difference between proposed passings and what has actually been passed by Brightspeed.

Mr. Inofuentes stated that information is not available. The extension on the closing report was granted in part to allow this information to be provided.

Mr. Culp stated that no payment will be made by the County for work done outside of the project area.

Mr. Jaquith stated that Brightspeed may write off the areas they did not provide service to.

Mr. Schollmann of Brightspeed stated that they built to the places they committed building to. No construction occurred outside of the areas they committed building to. If any areas were missed,

Approved Minutes

Brightspeed will build to them. Mr. Schollmann stated that there are some areas where there is a dispute between the area that was committed to construction. Mr. Schollmann stated that an internal audit is being conducted to verify where facilities have been installed and to verify it has been installed properly before they pay their contractors. Mr. Schollmann noted that the take rate report is available and will be forwarded tomorrow.

Agenda Item No. 7b VATI 2022 Update

Mr. Culp shared a PowerPoint presentation. (Attached to these minutes)

Mr. Gary Wood of Central Virginia Electric Cooperative stated that connections in Red Hill area should start next month. Make ready work has started in the Keene area.

Agenda Item No. 7c VATI 2023 Update

Mr. Culp shared a PowerPoint presentation. (Attached to these minutes)

Mr. Culp stated that no award decisions have been made.

Agenda Item No. 7d BAAO Update

Mr. Inofuentes shared a PowerPoint presentation. (Attached to these minutes)

Mr. Walsh asked if there is any guidance on what the BEAD funding rules will be.

Mr. Inofuentes stated that there is guidance, and it is similar to the rules for using ARPA funding.

Agenda Item No. 8 New Business

Agenda Item No. 8a DHCD BEAD Listening Session May 16, 2023

Mr. Culp shared a PowerPoint presentation. (Attached to these minutes)

Agenda Item No. 8b VACo, VML, and Broadband Association of Virginia Conference May 17-18 2023

Mr. Culp shared a PowerPoint presentation. (Attached to these minutes).

Agenda Item No. 9 Other Matters

There were no items.

Agenda Item No. 10 Adjourn

Ms. Walsh **moved** to adjourn.

The motion was **approved** unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. FOR APPROVAL (by recorded vote):

No items

5. FOR APPROVAL (Information Only)

5.1 Albemarle Broadband Authority Financial Report as of April 19, 2023

Update: 04/19/2023

4-4300-91097-491097-950030-9999 (EXPENSE CODE) + ARPA 5301 Fund

BROADBAND INCENTIVES>ALBEMARLE BROADBAND AUTHORITY + ARPA Funding

	Fund Balance	Commitment/ Projected Expenses	Paid Expenses	Remaining Project Funds
Current FY23 Balance (includes \$4.5mil in ARPA Appropriation, \$4.37mil of that for VATI 2022)	\$5,099,325.90			
VATI 2021 Project Commitment Brightspeed: Payment on Hold		\$640,000.00	\$0.00	
VATI 2022 Project Commitment TJPDC/Firefly: First payment for \$121,863.50 PAID		\$4,368,000.00	\$121,863.50	
	\$91,325.90	\$5,008,000.00	\$121,863.50	\$91,325.90
<i>Note: Remaining Project Funds unless noted otherwise are subject to ARPA Guidelines and Rules.</i>				



Albemarle Broadband Authority

April 26, 2023



Agenda

1. Establish Quorum and Call to Order
 - a. Approve temporary assignment for recording of meeting minutes
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Brief Announcements by Authority Members
4. Public Comment
5. Consent Agenda
6. Approval of March 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes
7. Old Business
 - a. VATI 2021 Update
 - b. VATI 2022 Update
 - c. VATI 2023 Planning
 - d. BAAO Update
8. New Business
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VATI 2021 Update

- All project areas were launched on March 31st
- Preparations for the close out report are incomplete, DHCD suggested requesting an extension to complete
- ABBA made the request and close out is now due on June 30th



VATI 2021 Update – After Construction Completion

- Numerous reports of facilities that lacked fiber, preempting installations
- Construction operations have continued to resolve these issues
- Installation scheduling issues persist, along with renewed struggles with failures to communicate with customers and failures to properly restore property and questions regarding quality of installations



VATI 2021 Update – Verification of Completion

- Brightspeed provided lists of addresses for the Stony Point and Keswick builds
- Demonstrated failure to complete construction based on polygons provided by Lumen to DHCD after rescope
- Working with Brightspeed to verify completion of all other project areas and reach resolution on areas left out



VATI 2021 Update

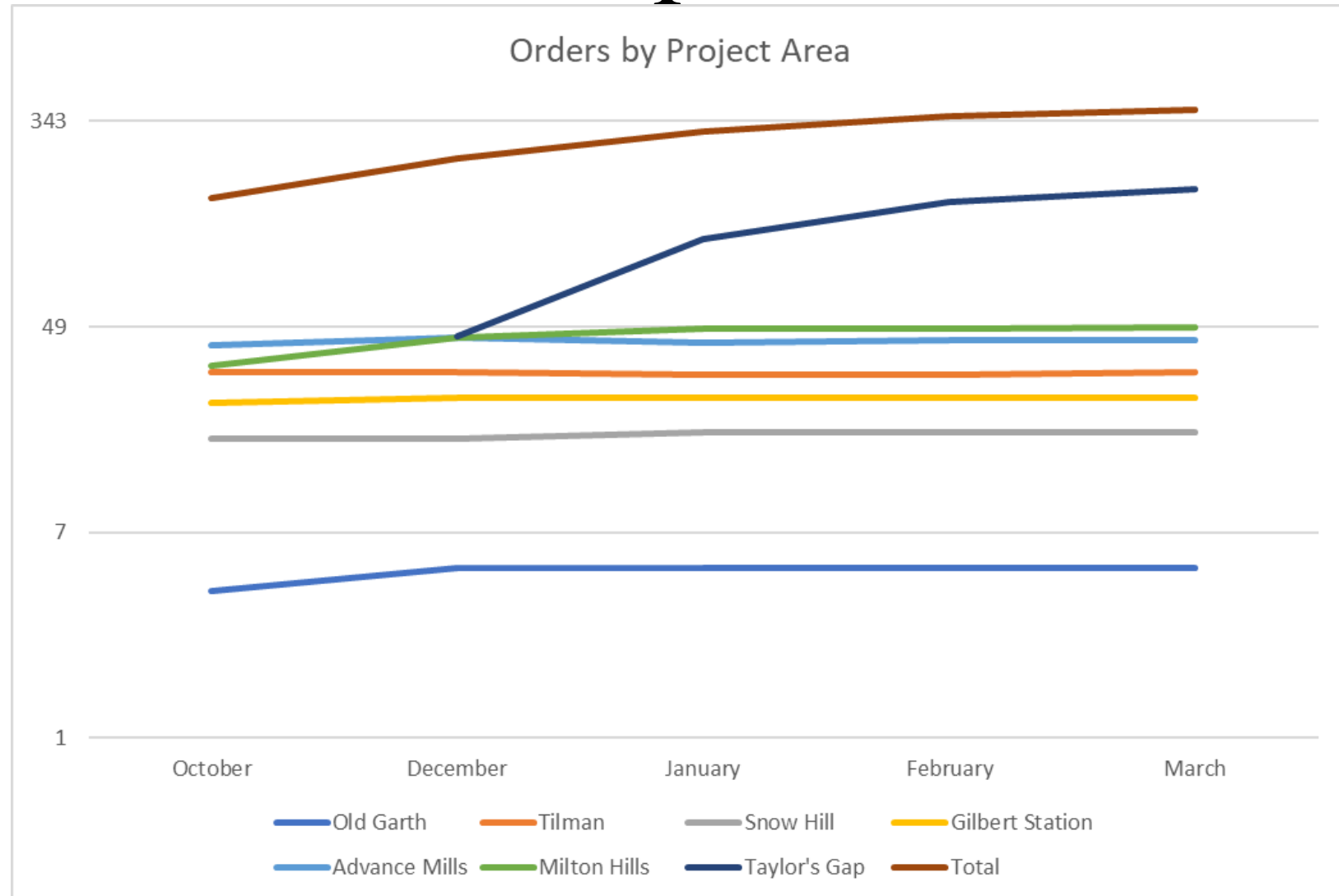
Last updated: March 20, 2023

Project Areas	October				December				January			
	Orders	Pending	Active	Take Rate	Orders	Pending	Active	Take Rate	Orders	Pending	Active	Take Rate
Jones Mill	13	2	11	23%	30	9	21	53%	30	3	27	53%
Old Garth	4	0	4	67%	5	1	4	83%	5	1	4	83%
Tilman	32	7	25	67%	32	4	28	67%	31	3	28	65%
Snow Hill	17	2	15	24%	17	1	16	24%	18	1	17	25%
Gilbert Statio	24	0	24	52%	25	1	24	54%	25	1	24	54%
Advance Mill	41	8	33	34%	44	7	37	36%	42	0	42	34%
Milton Hills	34	23	11	20%	44	20	24	26%	48	11	37	28%
Taylor's Gap					45	33	12	19%	112	34	78	48%
Total	165	42	123	32%	242	76	166	32%	311	54	257	41%

Project Areas	February				March				Current Passings
	Orders	Pending	Active	Take Rate	Orders	Pending	Active	Take Rate	
Jones Mill	31	1	30	54%	31	1	30	54%	57
Old Garth	5	0	5	83%	5	0	5	83%	6
Tilman	31	4	27	65%	32	3	29	67%	48
Snow Hill	18	1	17	25%	18	1	17	25%	71
Gilbert Statio	25	1	24	54%	25	0	25	54%	46
Advance Mill	43	0	43	35%	43	0	43	35%	122
Milton Hills	48	9	39	28%	49	6	43	28%	172
Taylor's Gap	160	37	123	45%	180	13	167	51%	352
Total	361	53	308	41%	383	24	359	44%	874

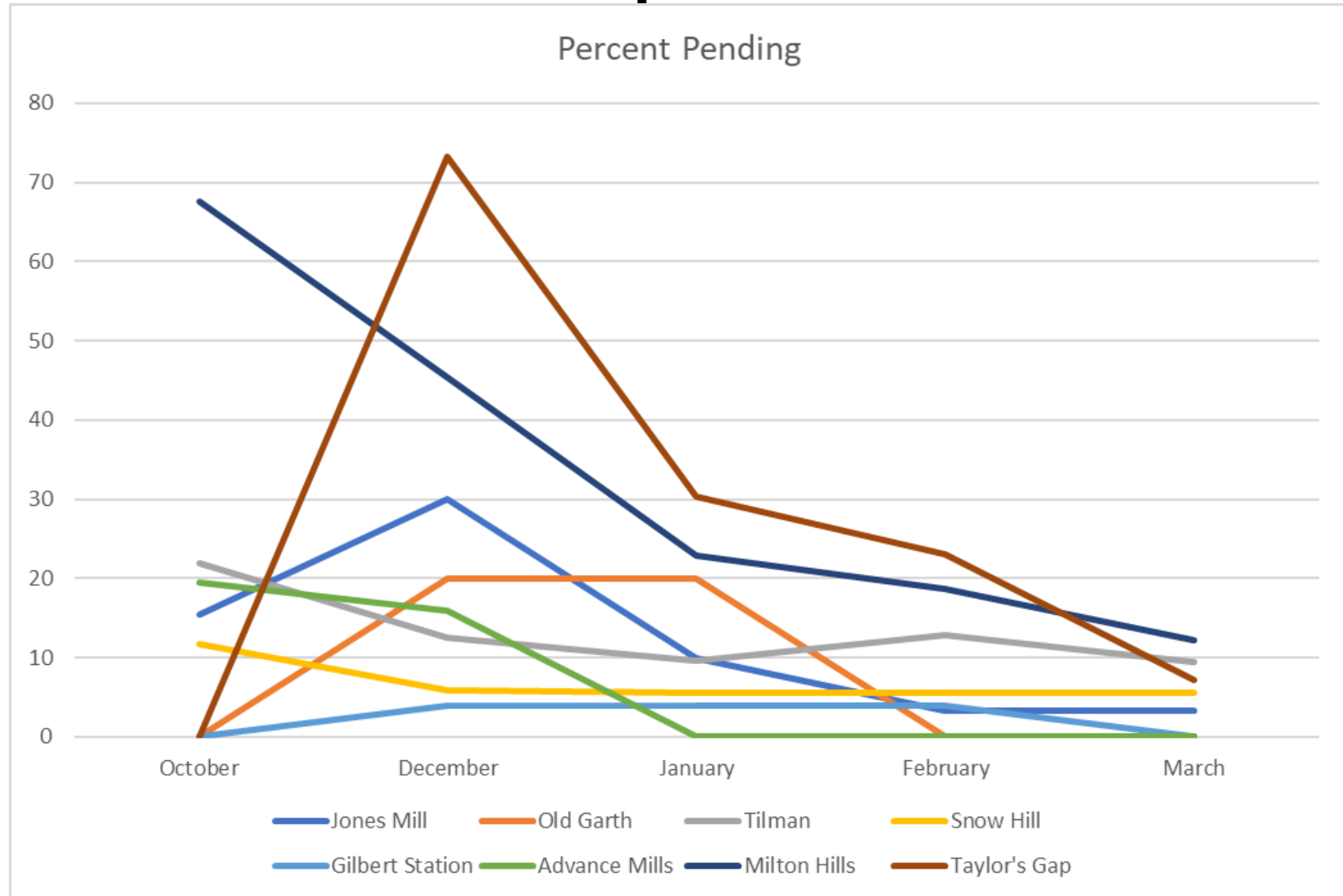


VATI 2021 Update



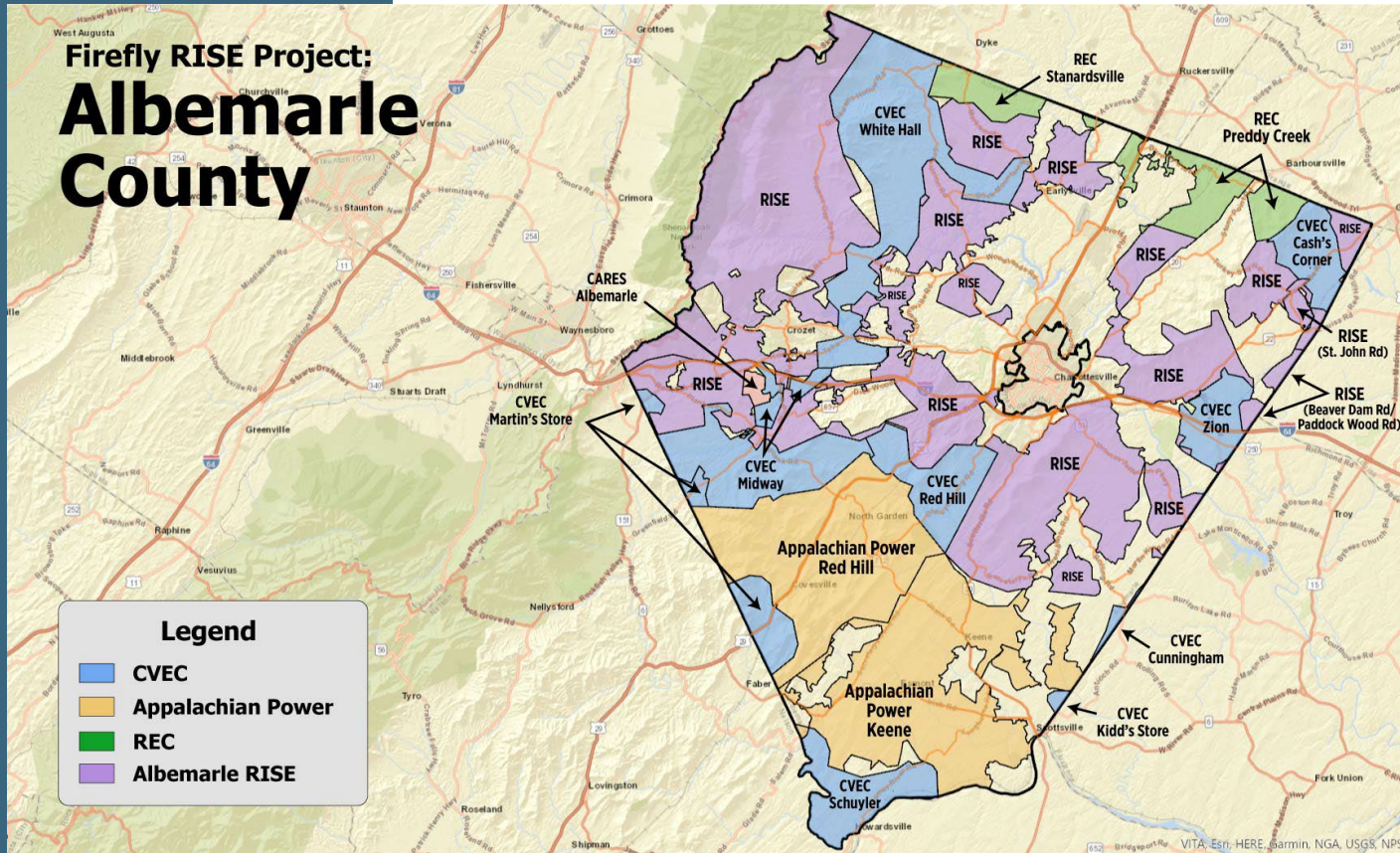


VATI 2021 Update





VATI 2022 Update



- Updated project map includes additional detail
- The first virtual town hall associated with this project occurred for the Appalachian Power – Red Hill area on April 20th.
- REC Stanardsville areas in Fall
- [Partners-Albemarle - Firefly Fiber Broadband \(fireflvva.com\)](http://fireflvva.com)



VATI 2022 Update

RISE – Albemarle (Beaver Dam/Paddock Wood Rd)



Current Status: Data Collection

Connections Expected to Begin: Spring 2024

Note: Firefly will serve this area as the last mile internet service provider in partnership with Dominion Energy's Middle Mile Project. Projects will be completed by the end of 2025. For questions regarding the Middle Mile Project, please contact the Dominion Energy Broadband Team at ruralbroadband@dominionenergy.com.

Map/Communication: [Click here to view](#)

RISE – Albemarle (St. John Rd)

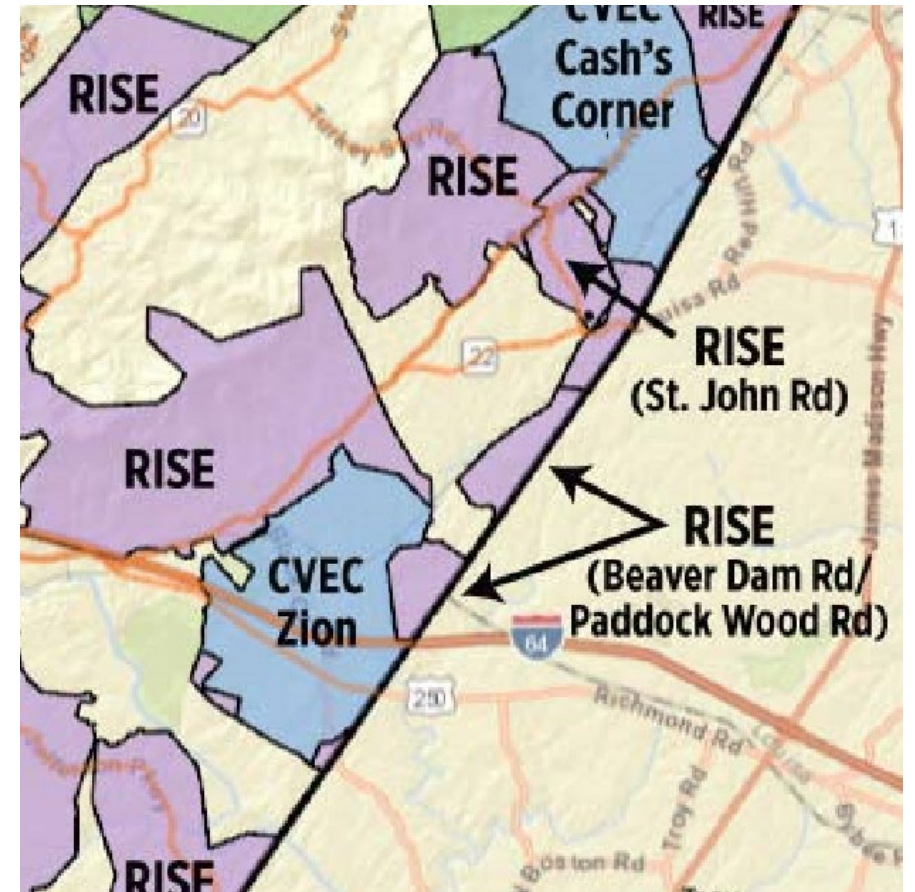


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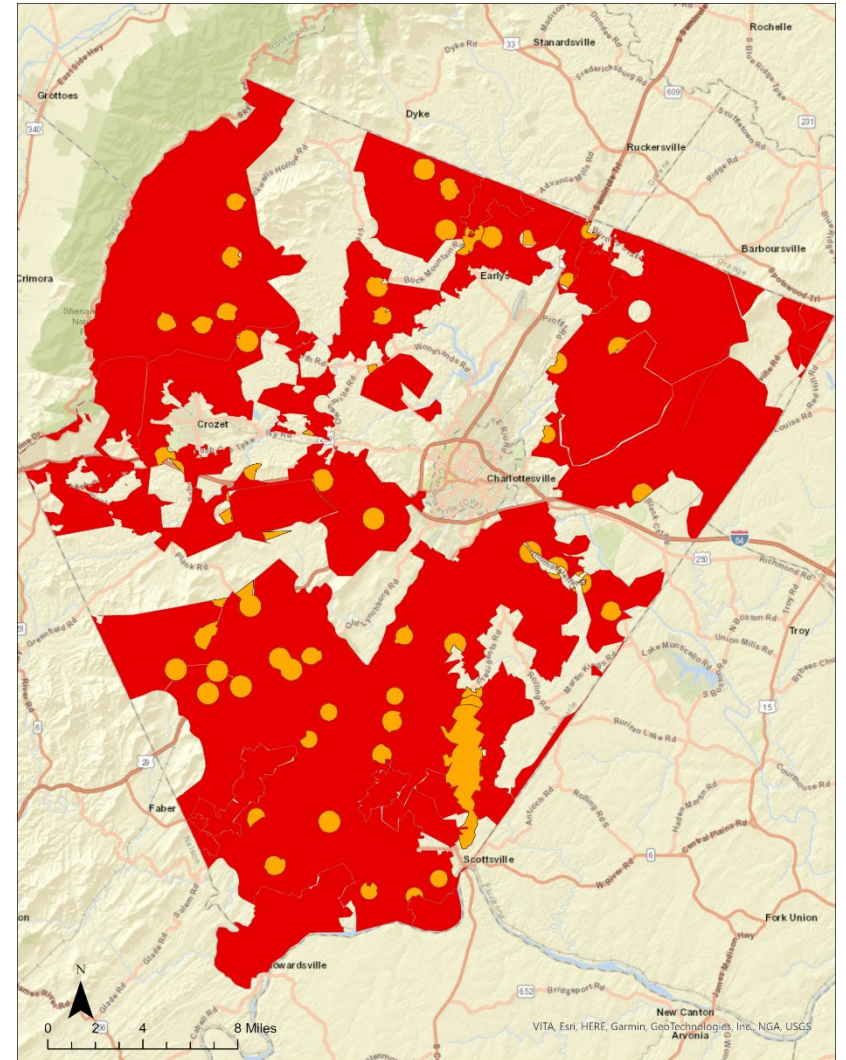
Map/Communication: [Click here to view](#)





VATI 2023 Application

- 1,575 Passings
- Projected total budget of \$8.8M
- VATI Request: \$3.6M
- BAAO Match: \leq \$440,000
- Awaiting Award Decision





ABBA Financial Report

Update: 04/19/2023

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BAAO Report

- Preparations for VATI 24/BEAD
 - Evaluating coverage gaps between earlier data and up to date FCC data
 - Evaluating remaining locations following current projects and private builds
- ACP Outreach Grant Application
 - Awaiting Notice of Award
 - Preparing to hire 2-3 navigators
 - RFP for digital marketing services



New Business – DHCD Listening Sessions



Office of Broadband



DHCD holding listening sessions for stakeholders in preparation for Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) planning efforts.

These will be public meetings that will be recorded.

Input Session Dates:

May 16, 2023
Local Governments

2 - 4 p.m.

May 17, 2023
Internet Service Providers

9 - 10:30 a.m.

May 22, 2023
Non-Profits and
Community Organizations

10 a.m. - 12p.m.

*The meeting access
link will be sent to
registrants prior to the
scheduled session.*



Register Now



VACO/VML/BAV Conference

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER
TO CONNECT VIRGINIA
**BROADBAND
TOGETHER**
MAY 17-18 2023

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Sponsorships
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2022 Attendees

Presented by

VML
VIRGINIA
MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

Broadband
Association
of Virginia

VACO
Virginia Association of Counties

Industry sponsored conference focusing on connectivity within the Commonwealth.

May 17th-18th at the Hilton Short Pump

Registration: <https://fs16.formsite.com/kvoxland/j3ebzstjfg/index>



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